

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A software program providing system for providing and managing access to a purchased software program, said system comprising:

a removable storage medium for storing ~~a—the~~ purchased software program and for storing an individual identification code that uniquely identifies said removable storage medium, the purchased software program including at least one supplemental pay function;

a user terminal for ~~installing—receiving~~ said removable storage medium therein and for accessing the purchased software program stored in said removable storage medium;

database management means for ~~storing~~ managing the at least one supplemental pay function, said database management means including:

~~a database which includes~~ for storing individual information of a user, information regarding a range of access limitations to the purchased software program, and information regarding a condition of access to the purchased software program and which is searchable using the individual identification code as a search key, the information regarding the range of access limitations including information identifying the at least one supplemental pay function, the information regarding the condition of access including an associated number of purchased counts and an associated number of used counts for the at least one supplemental pay function, the associated number of purchased counts indicating the number of prepaid accesses ~~by the user~~ to the at least one supplemental pay function that are permitted to the user, and the associated number of used counts indicating the number

of prior accesses by the user to the at least one supplemental pay function, ~~and said database management means including:~~

fee charging means for charging a fee to add to the associated number of purchased counts for the at least one supplemental pay function; and

information communication means for connecting said database management means with said user terminal, ~~said database management means reading the individual identification code from said removable storage medium installed in said user terminal through said information communication means;~~

said user terminal including a display having a graphical-unit-interface for enabling the user to select between requesting access to the purchased software program without the at least one supplemental pay function and requesting access to the purchased software program including the at least one supplemental pay function,

when the user does not request access to the at least one supplemental pay function of the purchased software program, said software program providing system authorizing said user terminal to have an unlimited number of accesses to the purchased software program without the at least one supplemental pay function when access to the at least one supplemental pay function is not requested, and

when the user requests access to the at least one supplemental pay function of the purchased software program,

said software program reading out the individual identification code that uniquely identifies said removable storage medium and then sending the read out individual identification code and the information identifying the at least one supplemental pay function

over said information communication means to said database management means,

said database management means reading out the associated number of purchased counts and the associated number of used counts based on the individual identification code and the information identifying the at least one supplemental pay function and then transmitting the associated number of purchased counts and the associated number of used counts over said information communication means to said user terminal,

said software program authorizing said user terminal to have at least one access to the purchased software program including the at least one supplemental pay function based on the information regarding the range of access limitations and whether when the associated number of purchased counts exceeds the associated number of used counts and then communicating over said information communication means to said database management means when the access to the at least one supplemental pay function is concluded requested,

said database management means then incrementing the associated number of used counts after the at least one access to the purchased software program including at least one supplemental pay function is concluded, and said user terminal including a display having a graphical unit interface for enabling the user to select between the unlimited number of accesses to the purchased software program without the at least one supplemental pay function and the paid access to the purchased software program including the at least one supplemental pay function.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The software program providing system according to claim 1, wherein said information communication means further comprises ciphering means for ciphering communication between said database and said user terminal.

4. (previously presented) The software program providing system according to claim 1, wherein said storage means further comprises a DVD-ROM, and the individual identification code includes a BCA code recorded using a laser beam during a fabrication process of the individual identification code.

5. - 9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) A software program providing system for providing and managing access to a purchased software program, said system comprising:

a removable storage medium for storing ~~a—the~~ purchased software program and for storing an individual identification code that uniquely identifies said removable storage medium, the purchased software program including at least one supplemental pay function;

a user terminal for ~~installing—receiving~~ said removable storage medium therein and for accessing the purchased software program stored in said removable storage medium;

database management means for ~~storing~~ managing the at least one supplemental pay function, said database management means including:

~~a database which includes~~ for storing individual information of a user, information regarding a range of access limitations to the purchased software program including information identifying the at least one supplemental pay function, and information

regarding a condition of access to the purchased software program and which is searchable using the individual identification code as a search key, and said database management means including:

fee charging means for charging a fee to modify the information regarding the condition of access to the purchased software program by incrementing a number of prepaid accesses to the at least one supplemental pay function; and

information communication means for connecting said database management means with said user terminal, said database management means reading the individual identification code from said removable storage medium installed in said user terminal through said information communication means;

said user terminal including a display having a graphical-unit-interface enabling the user to select among requesting access to the purchased software program without the at least one supplemental pay function, requesting access to the purchased software program including the at least one supplemental pay function, and incrementing the number of prepaid accesses to the at least one supplemental pay function,

when the user does not request access to the at least one supplemental pay function of the purchased software program, said software program providing system authorizing said user terminal to have an unlimited number of accesses to the purchased software program without the at least one supplemental pay function when access to the at least one supplemental pay function is not requested, and

when the user requests access to the at least one supplemental pay function of the purchased software program,

said software program reading out the individual identification code that uniquely identifies said removable storage medium and then sending the read out individual identification code and the information identifying the at least one supplemental pay function over said information communication means to said database management means,

said database management means reading out an associated number of purchased counts and an associated number of used counts for the at least one supplemental pay function from the information regarding the condition of access to the purchased software program based on the individual identification code and the information identifying the at least one supplemental pay function and then transmitting the associated number of purchased counts and the associated number of used counts over said information communication means to said user terminal,

said software program authorizing said user terminal to have at least one access to the purchased software program including the at least one supplemental pay function based on the information regarding the range of access limitations and whether when the number of prepaid accesses to the at least one supplemental pay function exceeds a number of prior accesses to the at least one supplemental pay function and then communicating over said information communication means to said database management means when the access to the at least one supplemental pay function is concluded requested,

said database management means then incrementing the number of prior accesses to the at least one supplemental pay function after the at least one

~~access to the purchased software program including at least one supplemental pay function is concluded, and said user terminal including a display having a graphical unit interface for enabling the user to select between the unlimited number of accesses to the purchased software program without the at least one supplemental pay function and the paid access to the purchased software program including the at least one supplemental pay function, and~~

when the user requests incrementing the number of prepaid accesses to the at least one supplemental pay function,

said software program reading out the individual identification code that uniquely identifies said removable storage medium and then sending the read out individual identification code, the information identifying the at least one supplemental pay function, and a fee to a service provider,

said database management means being updated by the service provider to increment the number of prepaid accesses to the at least one supplemental pay function,

said software program then receiving acknowledgement from the service provider.

11. (new) The software program providing system according to claim 10, wherein said information communication means further comprises ciphering means for ciphering communication between said database and said user terminal.

12. (new) The software program providing system according to claim 10, wherein said storage means further comprises a DVD-ROM, and the individual identification code includes a BCA code recorded using a laser beam during a fabrication process of the individual identification code.